

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 150960
ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 150960

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 3065 ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV
DAMASCUS AMMAN CAIRO 28 JUN 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3065

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI MOPS LE IS SY

SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: STATE 148797

1. SAW FONMIN BOUTROS AT MINISTRY DEFENSE 1300 LOCAL
JUNE 28. CONPEED TO HIM NATURE OF REPRESENTATIONS
WE MAKING TO ISRAELIS AND SYRIANS ON SITUATION SOUTH
LEBANON. HE VERY APPRECIATIVE, BUT ASKED AGAIN WHETHER
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WE THOUGHT ISRAELIS, ALTHOUGH THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE
TERRITORIAL DESIGNS, MIGHT UUNDERTAKE POLICE ACTION IN
SOUTH LEBANON AND OCCUPY TYRE. I SAID THIS STORY
HAD BEEN SPREAD BY DANY CHAMOUN, AMONG OTHERS,
WHO ALLEGEDLY GOT IT FROM A CHAMOUNIST CONTACT
WITH THE ISRAELIS. ANYTHING WAS POSSIBLE, OF COURSE,
BUT WE HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM ISRAELIS THEY

HAD NO INTENTIONS TAKE MILITARY SWIPE AT LEBANON
AND, IF THEY DID, I THOUGHT LAST PEOPLE THEY WOULD
TELL ABOUT IT IN ADVANCE WOULD BE CHAMOUNISTS OR OTHER
LEBANESE. BOUTROS SAID HE HAD REACHED SAME CONCLUSION
BUT WAS GLAD TO KNOW I FELT SAME WAY.

2. WE TALKED BRIEFLY ABOUT SITUATION IN SOUTH
AND BOUTROS ASKED WHETHER ISRAELIS CONTROLLED
CHRISTIANS OR CHRISTIANS WERE PUSHING ISRAELIS INTO
FIGHT. I SAID CHRISTIANS MIGHT BE DRAGGING ISRAELIS
INTO FIRING ENGAGEMENTS, BUT I DID NOT THINK THEY
COULD PUSH THEM.

3. AFTER MEETING WITH BOUTROS, I HAD LUNCH WITH
SUNNI LEADER SAEB SALAM AT HIS HOUSE IN BASTA.
SALAM ASKED WHAT WE THOUGHT OF PROPOSALS NOW
BEING DISCUSSED FOR CEASE-FIRE IN SOUTH, WHICH WOULD
INVOLVE PULLBACK BY EVERYBODY. I SAID ON SURFACE
IT WAS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, BUT QUESTION WHICH
IMMEDIATELY CAME TO MIND WAS WHETHER FATAH AND
SAIQA COULD CONTROL REJECTIONISTS AND LEBANESE
LEFTISTS. SALAM SAID FATAH CLAIMED IT COULD CONTROL
REJECTIONISTS. CERTAINLY THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT IF
FATAH AND SAIQA WERE ALLOWED TO GET TOGETHER THEY COULD
CONTROL REJECTIONISTS, (WE ARE NOT SO SURE), BUT QUESTION
WAS WHETHER SYRIANS WOULD LET THEM

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DO SO. SALAM SAID HE HAD SEEN AL-ASAD ON JUNE 26,
AND LATTER HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT SITUATION
IN SOUTH BUT HAD SONE SO IN MANNER INDICATING THAT
HIS REAL CONCERNS WERE LARGER SYRIAN OBJECTIVES
IN LEBANON. SALAM SAID HE FRANKLY UNCERTAIN WHAT
SYRIANS' INTENTIONS WERE. HE KNEW THEY WANTED TO
CONTROL LEBANON AND THAT THEY WERE WORKING
THROUGH GRASSROOTS CONTACTS TO DO SO. THEY WOULD
FAIL, OF COURSE, BECAUSE LEBANESE WERE WISE TO SUCH
TACTICS. NEVERTHELESS, THIS SYRIAN OUTLOOK COLORED
SYRIAN PERCEPTIONS OF THE SOUTH AND WOULD AFFECT THE
POSSIBILITY OF REACHING CEASE-FIRE THERE. IF SYRIANS
WERE FOR IT, IT COULD BE DONE. IF THEY WERE OPPOSED,
IT WOULD NOT WORK.

4. SALAM THEN ASKED IF WE WOULD USE OUR
INFLUENCE IN SUPPORT OF SUCH A CEASE-FIRE. I SAID I
THOUGHT WE WOULD PROVIDED THERE WAS SOME SERIOUS
PROPOSITION TO SUPPORT. DID HE HAVE ONE TO OFFER?
HE SAID NOT YET, BUT HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO WEIGH IN
(PRESUMABLY BY FATAH) AND HE SPECIFICALLY WANTED
TO KNOW WHETHER WE WOULD USE OUR INFLUENCE WITH

LEBANESE FRONT. I SAID WE WOULD IF WE HAD SOMETHING
SERIOUS TO DISCUSS WITH THEM AND IT LOOKED LIKE A
WORKABLE PROPOSITION. THEN NOTED THAT WHILE HIS
QUESTIONS WERE ABOUT SYRIANS, MINE WERE ABOUT
FATAH. THEIR INTENTIONS NOT CLEAR TO ME. SALAM
SAID IT WAS EVIDENT FATAH WOULD LIKE TO FIND WAY TO
STABILIZE SITUATION. HE DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY.
PARKER
UNQUOTE VANCE.

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